

SREB Report on State Virtual Schools

Most of the 16 SREB states now have a state virtual (online) school, and several more are in the process of creating one to help meet the need for more middle grades and high school academic courses.

All SREB state virtual schools provide online courses for high school students, and a growing number of states also provide courses for middle grades students. No SREB state virtual school provides courses for students below the middle grades level.

Generally, SREB state virtual schools assist students:

- who attend schools that are unable to provide certain courses;
- who need to retake courses to meet academic requirements;
- who need an alternative to traditional education;
- who want expanded course options; and
- who have physical disabilities or prolonged absences from school because of illness.

To provide the latest information, the SREB Educational Technology Cooperative has surveyed and compiled a report that includes information about management, funding, course offerings, student enrollments, staff and accountability at each SREB state virtual school.

This report is available at the SREB Web site at <http://www.sreb.org/programs/EdTech/onlinelearning/initiatives.asp>. For more information, contact Bill Thomas, SREB director of educational technology, at bthomas@sreb.org or call 404-875-9211.

	Alabama Online High School http://www.aohs.state.al.us																			
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the Alabama Online High School (AOHS)?</i>	The combined efforts of local, state, federal and private sources enabled the AOHS to open in 2000.																			
Management <i>Under whose direction does the AOHS operate?</i>	University of Alabama																			
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the AOHS?</i>	State legislative allocation Grants Users (tuition)																			
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	State legislative allocation Parents																			
Course Offerings <i>What courses does the AOHS offer?</i>	<div><div></div><div><i>Number of courses offered</i></div></div> <table><tr><td>Core academic</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>Foreign language</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Career/Technical education</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Non-core electives</td><td>2</td></tr></table>		Core academic	18	Foreign language	2	Career/Technical education	2	Non-core electives	2										
Core academic	18																			
Foreign language	2																			
Career/Technical education	2																			
Non-core electives	2																			
Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i>	600																			
Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i>	Courses are developed by the state.																			
Teacher Qualifications <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	Alabama certified teachers																			
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Criteria developed and used to select online teachers. Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.																			
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the AOHS?</i>	<div><div></div><div><i>Number of Persons</i></div></div> <table><tr><td colspan="2">Teachers</td></tr><tr><td>Full time</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Part time</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Staff</td></tr><tr><td>Management</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Course design</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Technical</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Clerical</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>1</td></tr></table>		Teachers		Full time		Part time	20	Staff		Management	1	Course design	1	Technical	2	Clerical	2	Other	1
Teachers																				
Full time																				
Part time	20																			
Staff																				
Management	1																			
Course design	1																			
Technical	2																			
Clerical	2																			
Other	1																			

Accountability <i>How does the AOHS ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Course content is pre-approved by the Alabama State Department of Education. Courses are monitored to ensure quality State or SREB <i>Criteria for Evaluating Online Courses</i> is used.
Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	Qualitative and quantitative analysis of the following artifacts: success stories submitted by partner schools and course completion rates.
Contact Information	Cheryl Sundberg, Manager, Alabama Online High School, at sund001@bama.ua.edu

	<p align="center">Arkansas Virtual High School http://arkansashigh.k12.ar.us/</p>								
<p>Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the Arkansas Virtual High School?</i></p>	<p>Arkansas Virtual High School was initially implemented in Spring 2001, as a pilot project in cooperation with the Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative. The Arkansas Virtual School is a public virtual school program, sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Education through a federal grant under the Voluntary Public School Choice program that blends innovative new instructional technology with a traditional curriculum for students all across Arkansas.</p>								
<p>Management <i>Under whose direction does the Arkansas Virtual School operate?</i></p>	<p>Arkansas State Department of Education and Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative.</p>								
<p>Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the Arkansas program?</i></p>	<p>Arkansas Virtual High School is funded through a grant from the Arkansas Department of Education to the Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative.</p>								
<p>Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i></p>	<p>No tuition for Arkansas students.</p>								
<p>Course Offerings <i>What courses does Arkansas offer?</i></p>	<p align="right"><i>Number of courses offered</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>Core academic</td><td align="right">27</td></tr> <tr> <td>Foreign language</td><td align="right">4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Career/Technical education</td><td align="right">1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Non-core electives</td><td align="right">7</td></tr> </table>	Core academic	27	Foreign language	4	Career/Technical education	1	Non-core electives	7
Core academic	27								
Foreign language	4								
Career/Technical education	1								
Non-core electives	7								
<p>Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i></p>	<p>866</p>								
<p>Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i></p>	<p>Arkansas certified teachers are trained to develop courses.</p>								
<p>Teacher Qualifications <i>Who teaches the courses?</i></p>	<p>Arkansas certified teachers</p>								
<p>Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i></p>	<p>Distance education courses are monitored by the Arkansas Department of Education. The Arkansas Virtual High School instructional coordinator monitors and evaluates all teachers and curriculum.</p>								
<p>Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the Arkansas program?</i></p>	<p align="right"><i>Number of Persons:</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>Management</td><td align="right">2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Course Design</td><td align="right">2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Technical</td><td align="right">2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clerical</td><td align="right">1</td></tr> </table>	Management	2	Course Design	2	Technical	2	Clerical	1
Management	2								
Course Design	2								
Technical	2								
Clerical	1								

Accountability <i>How does Arkansas ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Courses are built on Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks.
Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	Success is measured by students successfully completing the courses and passing state benchmark tests in those core areas.
Contact Information	Sandy O'Reilly sandyo@cox-internet.com

	<p align="center">Delaware Advanced Placement Incentive Program</p> <p align="center">http://www.doe.state.de.us/AdvPlacementProgram/APHome.htm</p>
<p>Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the Delaware Advanced Placement Incentive Program?</i></p>	The Delaware State Department of Education initiated the Advanced Placement Distance Learning in 2001. The program used is APEX Learning and consists of AP courses, Class Tools to support AP teachers, and AP Exam Reviews.
<p>Management <i>Under whose direction does the Delaware Advanced Placement Incentive Program operate?</i></p>	The Delaware State Department of Education manages the Advanced Placement Incentive Program.
<p>Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the Delaware program?</i></p>	During the past three school years, Distance Learning was federally funded through the Advanced Placement Incentive Program (APIP) grant. In the current year, it is funded by LEAs and the federal APIP grant.
<p>Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i></p>	Student tuition was paid in full by the APIP grant during the past three school years. During the current year, it is funded by the APIP grant and local LEAs.
<p>Course Offerings <i>What courses does Delaware offer?</i></p>	<p>Math, Science, English, Social Studies, World Language Class Tools and Exam Reviews were also offered in the same subjects.</p> <p><i>Number of courses offered</i> There were a total of 128 online course enrollments.</p>
<p>Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i></p>	There were 81 registered students with 128 total enrollments in AP Online Courses. There were 390 registered students with 526 total enrollments in AP Exam Review.
<p>Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i></p>	Apex Learning, a private company, provides all courses currently used. Each of these courses were developed by a team of content, instructional and technical staff members.
<p>Teacher Qualifications <i>Who teaches the courses?</i></p>	Apex Learning's online instructors are certified to teach high school.
<p>Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i></p>	Online teachers communicate regularly with students and are required to meet specific standards. Others ways that the Department of Education ensures quality include requiring that each school have a mentor who supports the online teacher, each year there is a review of student and school data to identify schools that have a significant percentage of their students that are not making adequate progress.
<p>Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the Delaware program?</i></p>	<p>Delaware Site Coordinators, Mentors, and Technical Coordinators from twelve schools have played an integral role in the success of the students in the program.</p> <p><i>Number of Persons:</i> APEX Learning teachers (20) Delaware Site Coordinators (11) Mentors (57) Technical Coordinators (3)</p>

Accountability <i>How does Delaware ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	<p>Each course meets high-school requirements, including state and national education standards, seat time requirements, and significant textbook adoptions. In determining the proper design for a learning experience, we consider a variety of design and teaching models and strategies. Apex Learning uses technology to promote quality-learning experiences and to increase student engagement in ways that can only be accomplished when content is dynamic and online.</p>
Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	<p>Assessment is integrated into every student's online experience at several levels to promote achievement: in-line interactive exercises to help students assess their understanding as they go; formative online unit quizzes capable of reporting individual student and class results to teachers and administrators; and summative semester and course exams. AP tests results, mentors' and students' surveys ensure the ongoing monitoring and highest standards of distance learning in this program.</p>
Contact Information	<p>Mercedes Ferrari, Advanced Placement Incentive Program Manager, mferrari@doe.k12.de.us</p>

	Florida Virtual School http://www.flvs.net/													
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the Florida Virtual School?</i>	A School District Initiative, Orange and Alachua Counties initiated FLVS in 1996. The Florida Department of Education awarded a grant using legislative funding.													
Management <i>Under whose direction does the FLVS operate?</i>	Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor.													
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the FLVS?</i>	FTE. The same funding formula as the one used by all Florida school districts. Funding is based on successful (as defined in Florida) completion of a FLVS course.													
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	Tuition comes from the Florida State Department of Education													
Course Offerings <i>What courses does FLVS offer?</i>	<table><tr><td></td><td><i>Number of courses offered</i></td></tr><tr><td>Advanced Placement</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>Core academic</td><td>29 (52 w/honors courses)</td></tr><tr><td>Foreign language</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Career/Technical Education</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Non-core electives</td><td>11 (Computer Education, Health/Physical Education, Study Skills and Art)</td></tr></table>			<i>Number of courses offered</i>	Advanced Placement	11	Core academic	29 (52 w/honors courses)	Foreign language	5	Career/Technical Education	5	Non-core electives	11 (Computer Education, Health/Physical Education, Study Skills and Art)
	<i>Number of courses offered</i>													
Advanced Placement	11													
Core academic	29 (52 w/honors courses)													
Foreign language	5													
Career/Technical Education	5													
Non-core electives	11 (Computer Education, Health/Physical Education, Study Skills and Art)													
Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i>	17,858 successfully completed enrollments													
Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i>	Courses are developed using a team approach. Each team consists of at least two teachers certified in the specified content area, a curriculum specialist, a development specialist and a project manager. Courses are developed within the state. Courses are not obtained from third-party providers at this time. (Some third party resources, such as SASinSchool, United Learning and BrainPop, are used within courses to enhance the course content.)													
Teacher Qualifications <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	Florida certified teachers.													
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Criteria developed and used to select online teachers. Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.													
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with FLVS?</i>	<table><tr><td></td><td><i>Number of Persons</i></td></tr><tr><td>Teachers</td><td>293</td></tr><tr><td> Full time</td><td>204</td></tr><tr><td> Part time</td><td>89</td></tr></table>			<i>Number of Persons</i>	Teachers	293	Full time	204	Part time	89				
	<i>Number of Persons</i>													
Teachers	293													
Full time	204													
Part time	89													

	Staff 77 Management 24 Course Design 25 (9.5 grant funded this yr.) Technical 11 + 3 interns Clerical 14
Accountability <i>How does FLVS ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Courses are monitored to ensure quality. State and SREB <i>Criteria for Evaluating Online Courses</i> are used. All courses are written to the Sunshine State Standards and National Standards. Strict internal and external peer review process.
Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	FLVS measures success through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student successful completion rate • Customer [student, parent, school-based, district-based] Satisfaction Surveys Performed by External Evaluator • Teacher Retention Rates • Qualitative Customer Feedback
Contact Information	Julie Young, President and CEO, Florida Virtual School, Florida Department of Education, jyoung@flvs.net

	GA eLearning http://GAeLearning.org	
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the Georgia Virtual School?</i>	The program began in 2000 with a federal grant that allowed the state to serve a limited number of students in Advanced Placement courses only. Over time, core courses were added as were state funds, and the numbers have been growing.	
Management <i>Under whose direction does the Georgia Virtual School operate?</i>	Georgia State Department of Education	
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the Georgia program?</i>	For the first years, the program was funded by state funds (approx. \$450,000 per year) and some federal USDOE Advanced Placement Incentive Program grant money. All public high schools that were interested in participating could have up to 10 seats in online courses, tuition free. However, eventually the state had to slowly transition to a tuition-based program.	
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	The schools pay for the students if the school retains FTE for that student. Parents pay for students who are taking extra courses that do not generate funds for the local school.	
Course Offerings <i>What courses does Georgia offer?</i>	GA eLearning offers AP, core subject area, foreign language, and elective high school courses.	<i>Number of courses offered:</i> Up to 40 different courses in both block and traditional scheduling formats are offered, depending on the semester.
Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i>	For the 2003-2004 school year, students took over almost 600 semester courses (roughly 300 each semester). During the fall of the 2004-2005 school year, 550 students were enrolled.	
Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i>	About 20 courses were purchased and customized by the DOE. Roughly the same number were obtained or developed as part of a consortium of individual Georgia school systems and the DOE to share online course content.	
Teacher Qualifications <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	All teachers must be certified in the state of Georgia in the subject matter they are teaching. Online training is required of all contracted teachers and is provided free by the DOE.	
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Monitoring courses as semester progresses; assuring adherence to policies and teaching guidelines.	
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the Georgia program?</i>	Teachers Staff Coordinator, full-time Registrar, part-time .	<i>Number of Persons:</i> 30-40 part-time teachers/course developers 1 1

Accountability <i>How does Georgia ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	<p>Courses are evaluated using a course content evaluation rubric designed by the Georgia Department of Education. Course evaluators include online teachers, curriculum directors, DOE personnel, and local system personnel.</p>
Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	<p>Success is measured mostly by completion rates. Students are given a 15-day grace period to withdraw without penalty. After that, the student receives a failing grade. Also, school facilitators are surveyed, and a formal evaluation is being created to receive feedback from students.</p>
Contact Information	<p>Lisa Ciardulli, eLearning Coordinator, lciardul@doe.k12.ga.us, 404-657-0574. Mike Hall, Deputy Superintendent, Information Technology, mhall@doe.k12.ga.us</p>

	Kentucky Virtual High School www.kvhs.org/	
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the Kentucky Virtual High School?</i>	Gubernatorial Initiative, January 2000.	
Management <i>Under whose direction does the KVHS operate?</i>	Kentucky State Department of Education	
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the KVHS?</i>	State legislative Allocation Federal Funds School Districts Users (tuition)	
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	School Districts Federal Funds Parents Grants	
Course Offerings <i>What courses does KVHS offer?</i>	Advanced Placement Core academic Foreign language Career/Technical education Non-core electives	<i>Number of courses offered</i> 21 12 4 years of 4 languages (includes Advanced Placement) 3 4
Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i>	2,019	
Course Development <i>Who develops the courses</i>	Courses are developed by the Kentucky Virtual High School. Courses are obtained from third-party providers. KVHS shares content with other state virtual schools.	
Teacher Qualifications <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	Kentucky certified teachers	
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Criteria developed and used to select online teachers. Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.	
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the KVHS?</i>	Teachers Full time Part time Staff Management Course Design Technical Clerical	<i>Number of Persons</i> 27 2 25 3 1 0 .5 1.5

Accountability <i>How does the KVHS ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	<p>Course content is pre-approved by the Kentucky State Department of Education.</p> <p>Courses are monitored to ensure quality</p> <p>State or SREB <i>Criteria for Evaluating Online Courses</i> is used.</p>
Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student outcomes - retention, pass rates, AP exam scores • Satisfaction - repeat students and/or families, student and teacher surveys, LEA input • Efficiency - ability to reduce fee structure without reducing quality • Teacher outcomes - retention
Contact Information	<p>Linda Pittenger, Director, Virtual Learning, Kentucky Virtual High School</p> <p>lpitteng@kde.state.ky.su</p>

	Louisiana Virtual School www.louisianavirtualschool.net																				
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the Louisiana Virtual School (LVS)?</i>	Louisiana State Department of Education Initiative, 2000-01																				
Management <i>Under whose direction does the LVS operate?</i>	Louisiana State Department of Education																				
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the LVS?</i>	<p>A Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Quality Support Fund 8(g) grant is used to fund a portion of the LVS courses and instruction (with the exception of Algebra I).</p> <p>The Louisiana Virtual School Algebra I online project and its associated courses are funded with a Louisiana state legislative allocation. A part of the Louisiana Virtual School, this project provides Louisiana students with a certified and qualified Algebra I instructor and with a high quality Algebra I curriculum through a year-long Web-based course.</p>																				
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Quality Support Fund 8(g) grant and the Algebra I legislative allocation cover all associated student costs.																				
Course Offerings <i>What courses does the LVS offer?</i>	<table><tr><td></td><td><i>Number of courses offered</i></td></tr><tr><td>Core academic</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>Foreign language</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Non-core electives</td><td>2</td></tr></table>		<i>Number of courses offered</i>	Core academic	19	Foreign language	7	Non-core electives	2												
	<i>Number of courses offered</i>																				
Core academic	19																				
Foreign language	7																				
Non-core electives	2																				
Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i>	2400																				
Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i>	Courses are developed by Louisiana teachers.																				
Teacher Qualifications <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	Louisiana certified teachers																				
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Criteria developed and used to select online teachers. Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.																				
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the LVS?</i>	<table><tr><td></td><td><i>Number of Persons</i></td></tr><tr><td>Teachers</td><td>42</td></tr><tr><td> Full time</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td> Part time</td><td>28</td></tr><tr><td>Staff</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td> Management</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td> Course Design</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td> Technical</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td> Clerical</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td> Students Workers</td><td>2</td></tr></table>		<i>Number of Persons</i>	Teachers	42	Full time	14	Part time	28	Staff	9	Management	3	Course Design	0	Technical	3	Clerical	1	Students Workers	2
	<i>Number of Persons</i>																				
Teachers	42																				
Full time	14																				
Part time	28																				
Staff	9																				
Management	3																				
Course Design	0																				
Technical	3																				
Clerical	1																				
Students Workers	2																				

<p>Accountability <i>How does the LVS ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i></p>	<p>Course content is pre-approved by the Louisiana State Department of Education. Courses are monitored to ensure quality State or SREB <i>Criteria for Evaluating Online Courses</i> is used.</p> <p>Furthermore, in 2002-03 all <u>L</u>ouisiana <u>V</u>irtual <u>S</u>chool courses were evaluated by the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) using the SREB <i>Essential Principles of Quality Checklist Guidelines for Web-based Courses for Middle and High School Students</i> to ensure they met those guidelines, as well as the Louisiana state content standards and benchmarks. In June 2004, LVS courses were aligned to the Louisiana Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs) GLEs are statements of what all students should know or be able to do by the end of each grade, Pre-K-12, English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies</p>
<p>Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i></p>	<p>The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has an external program evaluator to measure the success of our program based on identified measurable objectives related to student achievement and enrollment.</p>
<p>Contact Information</p>	<p>Ken Bradford, LVS Program Coordinator, Educational Technology Consultant, Louisiana State Department of Education. Ken.Bradford@La.Gov</p>

	Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program http://mdk12online.org
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program?</i>	Legislative Initiative, May 2002
Management <i>Under whose direction does the Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program operate?</i>	Maryland State Department of Education
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program?</i>	Federal Funds State Funds School Districts Funds Grants to School Systems through Title IID, Title V
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	School Districts Federal Funds State Department of Education Parents Grants
Course Offerings <i>What courses does the Maryland offer?</i>	<div><i>Number of courses offered</i></div> <div>Advanced Placement10 Core academic7 Foreign language0 Career/Technical education3 Non-core electives1</div>
Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i>	89; 198, so far this year (2004-2005)
Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i>	Courses are developed by the state. Courses are obtained from third-party providers.
Teacher Qualification <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	Maryland certified teachers Teachers provided by third-party
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Criteria developed and used to develop and/or select online courses. Criteria developed and used to select online teachers. Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program?</i>	<div><i>Number of Persons:</i></div> <div>Teachers5 Full time0 Part time5 Staff14.7 Management.5 Contractual Course Design.2 Other (Course Development)14 Contractual</div>

Accountability <i>How does Maryland ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	<p>Course content is pre-approved by the Maryland State Department of Education.</p> <p>Courses are monitored to ensure quality implementation</p> <p>Maryland state <i>Criteria for Evaluating Online Courses</i> is used.</p>
Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	<p>A variety of measures are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student performance (grades, completion, related assessments scores) • Surveys of students, parents, mentors, district level staff, teachers • Focus groups <p>The surveys used are available for others if requested.</p>
Contact Information	<p>Liz Glowa, Coordinator, Web-based learning Project, Maryland Department of Education, lglowa@msde.state.md.us</p>

	Mississippi Online Learning Institute MOLLI http://molli.mde.k12.ms.us												
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated MOLLI?</i>	MOLLI was created by a Mississippi State Department of Education Initiative, July 2002.												
Management <i>Under whose direction does MOLLI operate?</i>	Mississippi State Department of Education.												
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support MOLLI?</i>	Grants												
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	School Districts Parents Grants												
Course Offerings <i>What courses does MOLLI offer?</i>	<div style="text-align: right;"><i>Number of courses offered</i></div> <table> <tr> <td>Advanced Placement</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr> <td>Core academic</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Foreign language</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Non-core electives</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	Advanced Placement	10	Core academic	6	Foreign language	2	Non-core electives	6	Other	1		
Advanced Placement	10												
Core academic	6												
Foreign language	2												
Non-core electives	6												
Other	1												
Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i>	250 (almost doubled since 2002-2003)												
Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i>	Courses are obtained from third-party providers.												
Teacher Qualifications <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	Mississippi certified teachers												
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Criteria developed and used to select online teachers. Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.												
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with MOLLI?</i>	<div style="text-align: right;"><i>Number of Persons:</i></div> <table> <tr> <td>Teachers</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr> <td> Full time</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td> Part time</td><td>12 (Teacher contracts)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Staff</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td> Management</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td> Clerical</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	Teachers	12	Full time	0	Part time	12 (Teacher contracts)	Staff	2	Management	1	Clerical	1
Teachers	12												
Full time	0												
Part time	12 (Teacher contracts)												
Staff	2												
Management	1												
Clerical	1												
Accountability <i>How does MOLLI ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Course content is pre-approved by the state department of education. Courses are monitored to ensure quality State or SREB <i>Criteria for Evaluating Online Courses</i> is used.												

Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	Success is measured by the increase in enrollment, student achievement and by the feedback from students, parents and the school district
Contact Information	Melvin Robinson, IT Planner, Mississippi Online Learning Institute, Mississippi Department of Education, merobinson@mde.k12.ms.us

	North Carolina http://www.ncpublicschools.org/distancelearning/	
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the online program in North Carolina?</i>	North Carolina Department of Public Instruction	
Management <i>Under whose direction does the program operate?</i>	It is managed as a partnership among North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, LearnNC (a program of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, NC School of Education), United Star Distance Learning Consortium (USDLC), Virtual High School, and Web Academy.	
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the program?</i>	State legislative allocation Grants	
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	State legislature Grants	
Course Offerings <i>What courses does the program offer?</i>		<i>Number of courses offered</i> Advanced Placement 38 Foreign language 10 Non-core electives 150 Others 73 re-take courses
Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i>	1,800	
Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i>	Courses are developed within the state. Courses are obtained from third-party providers.	
Teacher Qualifications <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	State certified teachers Teachers provided by third-party	
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Each partner has its own parameters for selecting and training teachers and monitoring courses, but all have training for teachers and quality assurance programs.	
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with this program?</i>	<i>Number of Persons</i> Teachers Full time NA; the state contracts for the courses. Part time Staff Management 4 Course Design 3 Technical Clerical 1 Other	

Accountability <i>How does this program ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Each partner has its own quality and alignment parameters, but End-of-Course and AP tests are tracked to analyze academic success.
Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	North Carolina End-of-Course tests, AP test scores, student grades and completion/pass rates.
Contact Information	John Brim, Section Chief, Resource Development and Evaluation Services, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, jbrim@dpi.state.nc.us

	Oklahoma
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the Oklahoma Virtual School?</i>	Information not available.
Contact Information	Phil Applegate, Executive Director, Instructional Technology, Oklahoma Department of education, phil_applegate@sde.state.ok.us

	South Carolina
Initial Implementation <i>Has a state virtual school been created in South Carolina?</i>	While many districts host their own virtual school programs across the state, South Carolina has no immediate plans for developing a virtual school for middle and/or high schools.
Contact Information	Don Cantrell, Education Associate, Office of Technology, South Carolina Department of Education, DCantrel@sde.state.sc.us

	Tennessee Virtual School
Initial Implementation <i>Has a state virtual school been created in Tennessee?</i>	Tennessee will pilot a Virtual High School in the second semester of the 2004-2005 school year. Implementation of a Virtual High School is planned in the 2005-2006 school year. .
Contact Information	Jill Ashworth Balthrop, Director of Integrated Technology, Office of Professional Development, Tennessee Department of Education, jill.balthrop@state.tn.us

	Texas
Initial Implementation <i>Does Texas have a state virtual school?</i>	<p>Texas currently does not have plans for a state-created/state-run virtual school. The state is, however, exploring how to best enable high-quality online learning and provide appropriate state-funding for electronic courses. Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 29.909 calls for the Commissioner of Education to “...establish a program to examine state policies, requirements, or restrictions impacting school districts that offer students enrolled in the district an electronic educational program or course that includes use of the Internet or other electronic media in which the student and a teacher are in different locations for a majority of the student’s instructional period.”</p> <p>In the Electronic Course Pilot (eCP) Application, schools must propose one or more funding models for students included in their eCP program. Each funding method proposed must include a detailed, observable and measurable method describing how the eCP participant will monitor and verify a student’s participation and progress in a course in accordance with the stated instructional plan and course expectations; and a detailed, observable and measurable method describing how the eCP participant will translate (equate) a student’s participation and progress in the course to the state’s current system of calculating ADA earned by students in the regular program. This equated funding method will serve as the student’s attendance for purposes of calculating state funding for participation in an eCP course.</p>
New Initiative <i>When will the Electronic Course Pilot be operational?</i>	<p>It is anticipated that schools selected for participation in the Electronic Course Pilot will begin implementation in the spring of 2005.</p>
Contact Information	<p>Kate Loughrey, Director of Distance Learning, Texas Education Agency, Kate.Loughrey@tea.state.tx.us</p>

	Virginia Virtual Advanced Placement School http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/VAPS.html																
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the Virginia Virtual Advanced Placement School?</i>	Gubernatorial Initiative, June 2003 Legislative Initiative, funded May 2004																
Management <i>Under whose direction does the Virtual AP School operate?</i>	Virginia State Department of Education																
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the Virtual AP School?</i>	State legislative Allocation Users (tuition)																
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	State legislative Allocation School Districts																
Course Offerings <i>What courses does the Virtual AP School offer?</i>	<table> <tr> <td></td><td><i>Number of courses offered</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Advanced Placement</td><td>13</td></tr> </table>		<i>Number of courses offered</i>	Advanced Placement	13												
	<i>Number of courses offered</i>																
Advanced Placement	13																
Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i>	1,400																
Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i>	Courses are developed by the state. Courses are obtained from third-party providers.																
Teacher Qualifications <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	State certified teachers Teachers provided school divisions.																
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.																
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the Virtual AP School?</i>	<table> <tr> <td></td><td><i>Number of Persons:</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Teachers</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr> <td> Full time</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr> <td> Part time</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Staff</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr> <td> Management</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td> Technical</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td> Clerical</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>		<i>Number of Persons:</i>	Teachers	17	Full time	13	Part time	4	Staff	12	Management	3	Technical	6	Clerical	3
	<i>Number of Persons:</i>																
Teachers	17																
Full time	13																
Part time	4																
Staff	12																
Management	3																
Technical	6																
Clerical	3																
Accountability <i>How does the Virtual AP School ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Course content is aligned with AP Syllabus.																

Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	<p>Success is measured in two ways: first, academically with success on the AP exam. Across the board our students score above the national average. Second, course availability. These courses would simply not be available and affordable in Virginia schools were it not for VSEN (Virginia students pay no tuition for VSEN courses).</p>
Contact Information	<p>Greg Weisiger, Associate Director, Teleproduction, Virginia Virtual Advanced Placement School, Virginia Department of Education, gweisige@pen.k12.va.us</p>

	West Virginia Virtual School http://virtuelschool.k12.wv.us																				
Initial Implementation <i>Who initiated the West Virginia Virtual School (WVVS)?</i>	West Virginia Virtual School was created by Legislative Initiative in July 2000.																				
Management <i>Under whose direction does the WVVS operate?</i>	West Virginia State Department of Education																				
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the WVVS?</i>	State legislative Allocation																				
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	State Department of Education (via funds from State Legislature)																				
Course Offerings <i>What courses does the WVVS offer?</i>	<div><i>Number of courses offered:</i></div> <table><tr><td>Advanced Placement</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>Core academic</td><td>34</td></tr><tr><td>Foreign language</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>Career/Technical education</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>Non-core electives</td><td>42</td></tr></table>	Advanced Placement	20	Core academic	34	Foreign language	14	Career/Technical education	20	Non-core electives	42										
Advanced Placement	20																				
Core academic	34																				
Foreign language	14																				
Career/Technical education	20																				
Non-core electives	42																				
Student Enrollment 2003-2004 <i>How many students were enrolled in courses?</i>	1470																				
Course Development <i>Who develops the courses?</i>	Five Spanish courses are developed by the state. Other courses are obtained from third-party providers.																				
Teacher Qualification <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	West Virginia certified teachers for Spanish IA and IB.																				
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Criteria developed and used to select online teachers. Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.																				
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the WVVS?</i>	<div><i>Number of Persons:</i></div> <table><tr><td>Teachers</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td> Full time</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td> Part time</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>Staff</td><td>2 + 3 part time</td></tr><tr><td> Management</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td> Course Design</td><td>1 (contract, not full time)</td></tr><tr><td> Technical</td><td>1 (share with other programs)</td></tr><tr><td> Clerical</td><td></td></tr><tr><td> Other</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>1 (registrar (contract, not full-time))</td></tr></table>	Teachers	18	Full time	2	Part time	16	Staff	2 + 3 part time	Management	1	Course Design	1 (contract, not full time)	Technical	1 (share with other programs)	Clerical		Other	1		1 (registrar (contract, not full-time))
Teachers	18																				
Full time	2																				
Part time	16																				
Staff	2 + 3 part time																				
Management	1																				
Course Design	1 (contract, not full time)																				
Technical	1 (share with other programs)																				
Clerical																					
Other	1																				
	1 (registrar (contract, not full-time))																				

Accountability <i>How does the WVVS ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Course content is pre-approved by the state department of education. Courses are monitored to ensure quality State or SREB <i>Criteria for Evaluating Online Courses</i> is used.
Measuring Success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	Meeting individual student needs, student completion rate of courses, buy-in at district/school level
Contact Information	Brenda Williams, Executive Director, Office of Technology, West Virginia Department of Education, brendaw@access.k12.wv.us